United Nations E/C.19/2007/3/Add.13

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
13 March 2007

Original: English

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Sixth session
New York, 14-25 May 2007
Items 3 and 4 of the provisional agenda*

Special theme: "Territories, lands and natural resources"

Implementation of recommendations on the six mandated areas of the Forum and on the Millennium Development Goals

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations**

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Summary

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) works towards improving living conditions, adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development, while focusing on the needs of the poor and other vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including indigenous peoples. The Habitat Agenda, the Millennium Development Goals and other relevant international instruments and frameworks related to spatial, economic and social development and human rights, provide guidance to the work of UN-Habitat .

In response to the recommendations and requests from the previous sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, UN-Habitat is organizing, in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the secretariat of the Forum, the International Organization for Migration and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, an international expert group meeting on urban indigenous people and migration, from 27 to 29 March 2007 in Santiago. The report of the meeting is to be submitted to the Permanent Forum at its sixth session.

* E/C.19/2007/1.

** The submission of the present report was delayed in order to ensure the inclusion of the most recent information.

07-26804 (E) 280307

Three of the resolutions adopted by the twentieth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat make particular reference to the challenges faced by indigenous communities in the urban context and constitute the most recent UN-Habitat policy elements in this area. These resolutions focus on youth and human settlements, sustainable development of Arctic cities and housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living for persons who are vulnerable and disadvantaged.

UN-Habitat has several instruments, programmes, projects and activities that are relevant to indigenous peoples' territories, lands and natural resources. UN-Habitat activities in the field of disaster mitigation, post-conflict issues and safety in the context of human settlements are related to the housing and living conditions of indigenous peoples in most cases. However, the United Nations Housing Rights Programme, jointly implemented by UN-Habitat and OHCHR, the Advisory Group on Forced Evictions and the Global Land Tool Network are UN-Habitat instruments whose practices are most directly related to issues of indigenous peoples' territories, lands and natural resources. They are all actively contributing to much-needed advocacy work, research and tool development for indigenous peoples' housing rights and secure tenure. One of the Network's key priorities is the development of rigorous land administration and governance tools as an instrument to include, inter alia, indigenous groups. The Network aims at establishing a continuum of land rights, including for minority groups, rather than focusing only on individual land titling.

Ongoing UN-Habitat activities are contributing to the five main objectives of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People through economic and social empowerment of indigenous peoples; urban economic development and finance; rural-urban linkages; promoting civic engagement, social integration, participatory urban planning and management; gender mainstreaming and efforts under way to establish a global monitoring and evaluation mechanism for progress in the realization of housing rights.

The present report is prepared in response to recommendations of the fifth session of the Permanent Forum, as specified in paragraph 161 of the report on that session, addressed exclusively to UN-Habitat , and in other paragraphs as related and relevant to the mandate and activities of the Organization.

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I. Response to recommendations addressed exclusively to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

1. In recognizing the challenges related to urbanization and indigenous peoples, notably the urgent need of furthering the research and documentation undertaken by the United Nations Housing Rights Programme, the Permanent Forum recommended in its fourth session that an expert group meeting on this topic be organized. At its fifth session, the Permanent Forum reiterated its recommendation to expand the scope of this endeavour beyond the field of housing and to cover urban issues comprehensively under the general theme of "Urban indigenous peoples and migration".

2. The expert group meeting was to be organized by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in cooperation with the secretariat of the Permanent Forum with the participation of the members of the Permanent Forum, experts from indigenous organizations, the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental organizations and interested Governments, for the purpose of formulating recommendations for consideration, as part of its preparatory work for the sixth session. The Permanent Forum requested donors to provide financial resources for the expert group meeting. The Permanent Forum invited the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to assist in the preparations for this meeting.

3. In responding to this recommendation and with generous funding from the Government of Canada, this expert group meeting is to be held from 27 to 29 March 2007 at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean headquarters in Santiago. The meeting will be convened by UN-Habitat and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) within the framework of UNHRP, along with the secretariat of the Forum and the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and IOM.

4. The overall goal of the expert group meeting is to contribute to improving the living conditions of urban indigenous peoples and the realization of their human rights. The specific objectives of the meeting are: (a) to assess impacts of the migration process on indigenous peoples; (b) to analyse living conditions and the human rights situation of indigenous peoples in urban areas with the aim of generating comprehensive knowledge based on the latest research findings; (c) to evaluate current policies and practices and their effects on living conditions and the realization of the human rights of indigenous peoples in urban areas; and (d) to elaborate recommendations on how to improve the living conditions of urban indigenous peoples and to contribute to the realization of their human rights.

5. The expert group meeting is a follow-up to the findings and recommendations of a number of recent activities carried out by UN-Habitat and other entities of the United Nations system:

(a) A UNHRP research initiative in 2005 resulted in the publication of a book entitled "Indigenous peoples' right to adequate housing: a global overview" (research findings were reported to the fourth session of the Permanent Forum);

(b) The expert seminar on the theme "Indigenous peoples and migration: challenges and opportunities", organized by the Permanent Forum and IOM and

held in Geneva on 6 and 7 April 2006, stressed the need for addressing the nexus between indigenous peoples and migration within the following three main areas: State responsibility; information-sharing; and the role of the international community. The recommendations included the need to recognize the broad impact — both positive and negative — of indigenous peoples' migration on society and the urgency of strengthening the implementation of existing laws to protect indigenous migrants;

(c) Another UN-Habitat research project, realized under the umbrella of the Global Campaign on Urban Governance in cooperation with the University of Venice and funded by the Government of Italy, produced 10 case studies on urban policies and practices addressing international migration. A book entitled *International Migrants and the City*, published in 2005, was drawn from this research and analyses the impact of national policies on international migration, the role of migrants in the local economy, the relationship between local and migrant communities and the migrants' use of urban space. The case studies on Bangkok and Sao Paolo, Brazil, in particular, look at indigenous urban migrants from neighbouring countries;[1]

(d) A networking event on the theme "Sustainable development of the far north: sustainable cities and human settlements", held at the third session of the World Urban Forum, organized by the Arctic Council, during which the issue of indigenous people and urbanization was discussed.

6. The task of the experts is to prepare papers and presentations that will review policies and practices and their effects on the living conditions of urban indigenous people. The experts, representing all major regions, were identified in collaboration with the organizations contributing to the realization of the expert group meeting. They will present case studies covering the particular situations of a wide range of urban indigenous communities. In addition, members of the Permanent Forum and other participating United Nations entities will make overview presentations on current trends in indigenous peoples' situations in urban settings, analysed from intercultural and housing rights perspectives. In addition, the Fondo Indígena, which is hosting a workshop on a similar topic in Brussels in March 2006, has been invited to present their work.

7. The work of the experts, falling within their respective area of expertise in his/her particular region, country or city, will cover the following activities:

(a) A review of the current state of research and data availability with a view to identifying knowledge gaps and needs concerning various aspects of urban indigenous peoples and mobility/migration (such as the interplay of individual and community characteristics and push-pull factors that can affect the decision to move; and the roles of migration and ethnic mobility in the growth of urban indigenous populations);

(b) An analysis of living conditions and the human rights situations of indigenous peoples in urban areas through case studies on themes such as housing, employment, education, transition/settlement services, identities and ethnic mobility, cultural and linguistic continuity and human security, in particular among indigenous women and youth;

[1] In Sao Paolo: Quechua and Aymara from Bolivia; in Bangkok: Mon, Karen and Shan from Myanmar.

(c) An assessment of policies, good practices and underlying factors, patterns and characteristics regarding migration to urban areas by indigenous peoples, with a special focus on the violations of their rights (experts are expected to provide an overview of their seven regions so that the themes are presented in a holistic way, as they are all interconnected);

(d) Recommendations for practical measures and policies that are more evidence-based, relevant, effective and cognizant of both intended and possible unintended consequences, for the improvement of living conditions of indigenous peoples in urban areas and the realization of their human rights;

(e) Recommendations for further research to better inform mobility/migration and urban indigenous issues, including improved data collection and coverage, methodology and tools of measurement, development of indicators and areas of study;

(f) Devising a road map for the follow-up to the findings and recommendations of the expert group meeting.

8. The summary report of the expert group meeting will be submitted to the sixth session of the Permanent Forum and a publication containing all papers, presentations, deliberations and policy recommendations from the meeting will be made available on the website of the United Nations Housing Rights Programme and other participating organizations.

II. Response to recommendations addressed to the United Nations system

9. UN-Habitat has a clear position on the rights of indigenous peoples. Given the nature of its mandate, that is, to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all, UN-Habitat works towards the improvement of living conditions, adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development, while focusing on the needs of the poor and other vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including indigenous peoples. The Habitat Agenda, Millennium Development Goals and other relevant international instruments and frameworks related to spatial, economic and social development and human rights provide guidance to the work of UN-Habitat.

III. Obstacles to implementation of recommendations of the Permanent Forum

10. The main obstacle UN-Habitat faces in implementing policies relevant to indigenous peoples is inadequacy of staff resources and lack of funds. For example, the delay in realizing the expert group meeting recommended by the Permanent Forum in its fourth and fifth sessions was due to the non-availability of funds. Similarly, effective implementation of resolution 20/8 of the UN-Habitat Governing Council, on the sustainable development of Arctic cities (see section IV), has not been possible to date due to the inadequacy of available funds.

IV. Other significant information regarding recent policies, programmes, budgetary allocations or activities regarding indigenous issues

11. The three resolutions adopted by the twentieth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat that made particular reference to challenges faced by indigenous communities in the urban context constitute the most recent UN-Habitat policy elements in this area.

12. In resolution 20/1, on youth and human settlements, the Governing Council expressed its special concern "that girls and young women and indigenous young people are particularly at risk of exclusion and discrimination, and that gender inequalities also negatively affect boys and young men".

13. In resolution 20/8, on the sustainable development of Arctic cities, the Governing Council noted with concern that the development of human settlements of the far north and the Arctic region is impeded by severe climatic conditions coupled with environmental pollution and a decrease in the number of indigenous people and their growing vulnerability; acknowledged the special need to provide adequate shelter for the indigenous people of the Arctic region and the need to ensure the sustainable development of human settlements in that region; and welcomed the fruitful work of the Arctic Council in promoting the cooperation, coordination and joint action of stakeholder countries of the Arctic region, including principles relating to the protection of the environment and the health of the indigenous population and the improvement of the social and economic conditions of Arctic communities. In the resolution, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to assist in raising the awareness of the international community of the sustainable development challenges of the far north and the Arctic region, including those faced by the indigenous people residing in those areas. It further invited the Executive Director to consult the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Arctic Council, the World Bank, the North-North Network and other partners and stakeholders about the sustainable development of cities and other human settlements, the promotion of improved shelter infrastructure in the far north and the Arctic region and the creation of favourable living conditions for the indigenous people of that area. As mentioned in section III, the implementation of this resolution is subject to availability of funds.

14. In resolution 20/13, the Governing Council reaffirmed and elaborated on housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living for persons who are vulnerable and disadvantaged. By definition, indigenous people can be considered as vulnerable and disadvantaged. UN-Habitat was requested to:

(a) Integrate the protection of persons belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups into all its activities;

(b) Develop/strengthen mechanisms for monitoring the impact of human settlement policies and programmes on the lives and work of disadvantaged persons in cities, including those in low-income areas and slums, and for enhancing vulnerable and disadvantaged persons' networks and other organizations active in the area.

15. In the same resolution the Governing Council encouraged UN-Habitat member States to:

(a) Adopt appropriate policies, create mechanisms and allocate appropriate resources to tackle social problems resulting from lack of adequate shelter, such as gender-based violence, including family violence and discrimination, juvenile delinquency and criminality — phenomena that are widespread in indigenous communities, which are under pressure from various factors;

(b) Support through their laws and policies access to housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living for vulnerable and disadvantaged people, and take the necessary actions for the practical implementation of those rights;

(c) Seek alternatives to forced evictions in respect of vulnerable and disadvantaged persons, where applicable;

(d) Strengthen the participation of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in human settlements development programmes, resource allocation and in the delivery of basic services;

(e) Reinforce mechanisms protecting the access of vulnerable and disadvantaged persons to adequate housing.

16. Internally, a draft strategy paper for the mainstreaming of a rights-based approach in general and of housing rights in particular in all activities of UN-Habitat was prepared in 2005. The paper included a specific focus on the protection of persons who are vulnerable and disadvantaged, including indigenous people.

V. Information and suggestions regarding the special theme of the sixth session, "Territories, lands and national resources"

17. UN-Habitat has several instruments, programmes, projects and activities that are relevant to indigenous peoples' lands, territories and resources. Overall, global UN-Habitat programmes and activities focusing on poverty alleviation in the context of the Millennium Development Goals impact directly on indigenous people's livelihoods. More specifically, UN-Habitat activities in the field of disaster mitigation, post-conflict issues and safety in the context of human settlements are related to housing and living conditions of indigenous peoples in most cases.

18. However, the United Nations Housing Rights Programme, the Advisory Group on Forced Evictions and the Global Land Tool Network are UN-Habitat instruments whose practices are most directly related to issues of indigenous peoples' lands, territories and resources. They are all actively contributing to much-needed advocacy work, research and tool development for indigenous peoples' housing rights and secure tenure.

19. The United Nations Housing Rights Programme provides a programmatic approach to addressing housing rights, drawing on the mandates of both UN-Habitat and OHCHR. The main activities of the Programme are:

(a) Advocacy, outreach and learning from partners;

(b) Support for United Nations human rights mechanisms on housing rights, including the rights of internally displaced persons, populations displaced as a result of natural or human-made disasters;

(c) Monitoring and evaluation of the realization of housing rights, including development of a set of housing rights indicators;

(d) Research and analysis on housing rights (promotion and development of relevant norms, standards and guidelines and thematic research on housing rights);

(e) Capacity-building and technical cooperation (assistance to States and other stakeholders in building capacities for the implementation and monitoring of housing rights).

20. The Programme is in the process of initiating housing rights activities at the national level in a pilot project in Cambodia in response to calls from the United Nations country team for guidance with regard to the challenge of recent large-scale evictions of slum dwellers in Phnom Penh. At the country level, the Programme's implementation will be a good way to address the housing rights of indigenous peoples more effectively within the wider framework of United Nations activities in Member States. This pilot activity can be seen as a follow-up to Asia-Pacific regional consultations for advocacy, information and experience exchange and capacity-building in the area of housing rights that were organized by UNHRP in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and held in Bangkok in 2004. The Programme plans to facilitate such housing rights consultations also in other regions. These consultations will give adequate focus to indigenous peoples.

21. In response to the fact that in many countries forced evictions of squatters, low-income renters, indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups with inadequate or no security of tenure are carried out with relative ease, in 2004, UN-Habitat facilitated the establishment of the Advisory Group on Forced Evictions, an advisory organ that reports to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat. The Group has since worked to alleviate the plight of the urban poor by monitoring acts of forced evictions and promoting alternatives. In cases where eviction cannot be avoided, the Group recommends that resettlement be undertaken through community participation with provision for some form of alternative land with long-term security. By spearheading the fight against forced evictions, the Group advises the Executive Director on alternative ways of addressing the problem. In its first two reports to the Executive Director,[2] the Group documented 26 cases of imminent or ongoing evictions in many countries and successfully engaged in conciliatory activities to propose alternatives to forced evictions in a number of countries worldwide, some of which were targeted at indigenous communities.[3] One of the principles that the Group promotes is that when evictions and relocations are unavoidable, they must be undertaken in a manner that conforms to international human rights standards as contained in Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights general comment No. 7 and the United Nations comprehensive human rights guidelines on development-based displacement.

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[2] UN-Habitat (2005), "Forced evictions — towards solutions?", first report of the Advisory Group on Forced Evictions to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat (available at www.unhabitat.org). UN-Habitat (2006), "Forced evictions — towards solutions?", second report of the Advisory Group on Forced Evictions to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat (still in draft form and not yet circulated).

[3] For example, the case in Digya National Park, Ghana, and the case of the Basarwa/San people in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve, Botswana.

22. The Global Land Tool Network, recently initiated by UN-Habitat and partners like the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and the World Bank, seeks to develop and promote innovative and flexible land tools in order to achieve security of tenure and housing rights for vulnerable groups, including indigenous peoples. One of the Network's key priorities is the development of rigorous land administration and governance tools as instruments to include, inter alia, indigenous groups. The Network aims at establishing a continuum of land rights, including for minority groups, rather than focusing only on individual land titling.

23. Land policies in most countries continue to promote individual land ownership through property title registration. For cultural and economic reasons, this often does not meet the needs of indigenous people who, in many cases, have collective land ownership systems and cannot afford individual land titles. Furthermore, studies have demonstrated that indigenous peoples have been disadvantaged during titling operations, for example through technical difficulties in determining their land boundaries, often a result of demarcation being done without prior field visits by the responsible technicians. The high costs of titling and cumbersome registration procedures have in many instances proven to be obstacles for indigenous communities attempting to access freehold or other forms of individual land ownership.

24. Tenure systems developed and practised by indigenous communities in many situations are based on simpler and culturally familiar and/or adapted procedures. These indigenous tenure systems should be seen as alternatives to conventional models. In general, collective tenure allows the reduction of statutory land tenure interference and enables indigenous peoples to adopt a self-governance system. Experience over the past 30 years has shown that customary indigenous land tenure can coexist with the statutory system. Thus, communities that were granted collective tenure have used a wide variety of technologies and methods to map and demarcate their land. In Peru and the Philippines for example, indigenous surveys and mapping methods have been recognized and accepted as the basis for land claims and registration.

VI. Information regarding the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

25. Ongoing UN-Habitat activities are contributing to the five main objectives of the Decade in the following ways.

Objective 1
Promoting non-discrimination and inclusion of indigenous peoples in the design, implementation and evaluation of international, regional and national processes regarding laws, policies, resources, programmes and projects

26. In recognition of the fact that one of the main causes of many indigenous peoples' disadvantaged position in the housing sector is their poverty, UN-Habitat places great emphasis on the economic and social empowerment of indigenous peoples. This is in keeping with the principle that the right to adequate housing is a constituent element of the right to an adequate standard of living as articulated in

the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Therefore, UN-Habitat advocates for Governments to take the following measures:

(a) Create the circumstances for indigenous peoples to become economically self-reliant. This can be done through a number of effective measures, the most important of which is ensuring that indigenous peoples retain access to their lands and other productive resources such as credit and loans and education and training;

(b) Develop specific economic policies that stimulate employment opportunities in urban areas and development in rural areas taking into account indigenous peoples' needs, rights and modes of production;

(c) Provide adequate services (both in terms of culture and quality) to all indigenous communities in order to counter the socio-economic disadvantages experienced by many indigenous peoples, such as poor health and low levels of education.

27. These principles have an important place in the work of UN-Habitat in the areas of urban economic development and finance. UN-Habitat seeks to provide substantive analytical focus on the urban economy and its relationship with the national and global economy, and focus on policies and strategies aimed at employment generation and creation of opportunities for social mobility. Its activities focus on conceptualization, formulation and development of research, capacity-building and on the provision of advisory services on issues of urban economic development and finance, including housing finance. Broadly, it seeks to provide economic analysis perspective to human settlements programmes by focusing attention on the operation of the urban economy and how these programmes affect or are affected by the quality of local governance and national economic management. It covers four substantive areas, namely:

(a) Enhancing productivity and employment in the urban informal sector;

(b) Financing municipal services in a decentralized environment;

(c) Impact of macroeconomic factors on urban economic development;

(d) Development and strengthening of housing finance systems and institutions, through, inter alia, the Slum Upgrading Facility.

28. Due to the strong ties binding urban indigenous peoples to their ancestral lands, rural-urban linkages are usually of particular concern to them. A UN-Habitat subprogramme strives to promote local economic development by raising the awareness and enhancing the capacity of central and local government policymakers with respect to rural-urban linkage development. This is based on the premise that urbanization should be accepted as inevitable; therefore, emphasis should be placed on how to address problems created by rapid rural-to-urban migration both within cities and rural areas. UN-Habitat works towards strengthening urban-rural linkages to promote the balanced development of rural and urban areas. In this context, studies have been carried out on peri-urban agriculture as a strategy for survival of the urban poor and at the same time as a contribution to the issue of food security. Together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other partners, UN-Habitat published guidelines under the title "Urban-rural linkages: approach to sustainable development" (2005).

Objective 2

Promoting full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in decisions that directly or indirectly affect their lifestyles, traditional lands and territories, their cultural integrity as indigenous peoples with collective rights or any other aspect of their lives, considering the principle of free, prior and informed consent

Objective 3

Redefining development policies that depart from a vision of equity and that are culturally appropriate, including respect for the cultural and linguistic diversity of indigenous peoples

29. As mentioned in section I, the UN-Habitat Global Campaign on Urban Governance facilitated research on urban policies and practices addressing international migration (published in "International migrants and the city" in 2005). Its findings reveal the importance and the advantages of promoting communication between stakeholders, establishing channels for representation and participation of migrants in decisions affecting their livelihoods and the key role that local authorities have in promoting civic engagement, social integration, participation and representation among international migrants, including indigenous people. The policies and practices required to do so are, in many ways, a litmus test of a city's political will to improve urban governance for the benefit of all of its citizens and for a better and more sustainable future.

30. As part of the proposed new focus of UN-Habitat, as defined by the Medium-Term Strategic Plan 2008-13, the Programme's work will centre around five thematic focus areas, one of which will be participatory urban planning, management and governance, with the strategic intent of strengthening the performance of national Governments, local authorities and other stakeholders to enable the development of liveable, productive and inclusive cities. One of the key results, the adoption of inclusive and effective urban planning and local economic development practices, with adequate attention to slum prevention and rural-urban linkages, is of particular relevance to indigenous communities in the urban context, as it will promote their adequate participation in urban decision-making processes.

31. In the context of this new strategic focus, the Global Campaign on Urban Governance and the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure will evolve into a single Global Campaign for Sustainable Urbanization. Indigenous issues in the urban setting will form part of the agenda of this new single Campaign. Equally, the UN-Habitat Shelter and Sustainable Human Settlements Development Division ("Global Division") has identified its overarching theme as "Sustainable urban development". In this context, efforts are under way to establish a global network of partners, acting individually or jointly to further the understanding and application of the principles of sustainable urban development, at the global, regional, national and/or city (local) levels. This global network will, inter alia, create a forum for dialogue between the different stakeholders at the country, regional and global levels and facilitate client-tailored training and capacity-building modules and processes and can therefore be seen as a policy initiative that will be highly significant for urban indigenous people and will require the participation of their organizations.

Objective 4

Adopting targeted policies, programmes, projects and budgets for the development of indigenous peoples, including concrete benchmarks, with particular emphasis on indigenous women, children and youth

32. Over the past several years, gender has become a cross-cutting issue for all UN-Habitat activities. As mentioned in section IV, Governing Council resolution 20/1, on youth and human settlements, drew attention to the increased risk of exclusion and discrimination that girls and young women and indigenous young people are facing and the fact that gender inequalities also negatively affect boys and young men.

33. Currently, gender is being mainstreamed throughout UN-Habitat, thus addressing the Habitat Agenda commitment to gender equality by promoting women's equal rights and women's empowerment — a challenge that is particularly relevant to indigenous communities.

Objective 5

Developing strong monitoring mechanisms and enhancing accountability at the international, regional and (particularly) national level, regarding the implementation of legal, policy and operational frameworks for the protection of indigenous peoples and the improvement of their lives

34. One of the ongoing key activities of the United Nations Housing Rights Programme is the establishment and effective operation of a global monitoring and evaluation mechanism on progress in the realization of housing rights (housing rights indicators). It is envisaged that the Programme, in collaboration with the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, will assist member States and other stakeholders in the collection of data and information and in reporting on their efforts towards the realization of housing rights. The disaggregation of data includes, inter alia, the category "race/ethnicity" and will therefore allow for analysis of the realization of indigenous peoples' housing rights.